



U.S. Embassy, Lusaka



**October - December
2011**

CONSULAR COMMUNICATOR

U.S. EMBASSY COMMEMORATES 9/11

Inside this issue



Marine Security Guards participated in the commemoration



U.S. Embassy Staff and wardens wore white as a symbol of solidarity



Wardens met with consular staff following the commemoration

On September 9th, 2011, the U.S. Embassy commemorated the tenth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks that killed 3,000 Americans and citizens of over 90 nations in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Ambassador Mark C. Storella delivered remarks to Embassy employees and consular wardens. He also planted an indigenous musikilli tree in honor of the victims and survivors of the attack.

The tree is an evergreen, symbolizing the resilience of the American people and our partnerships around the world. The Ambassador reflected how our values and spirit have remained steadfast. The Ambassador stated, "While we reflect on the loss of so many innocent lives, we also recognize that on that day, the heinous acts of a few were surpassed by the heroic acts of many." Following his remarks, the Ambassador led guests and employees in a moment of silence.

In recognition of wardens' voluntary service in support of U.S. citizens, the U.S.



Young Americans helped plant a tree

Commemorating
9/11

1

Adopting in Zambia

2

Introducing the
New Vice Consul
and Voting

3

Diversity Visa Lot-
tery and Consul's
Corner

4

Embassy invited wardens and their family members to attend the commemoration.

After the ceremony, the consular team met with wardens to discuss how they can best assist U.S. citizens in Zambia, particularly during the Zambian elections.

Your warden is not a consular officer, but he/she volunteers to serve as a link between the U.S. Embassy and wider U.S. citizen community.

Contact us if you do not know who your warden is:

acclusaka@state.gov.



Zambian Adoptions



Ambassador Storella met with an adoptive family



Another successful adoptive family had a discussion with Ambassador Storella

November is National Adoption Month in the United States. The U.S. Embassy has seen an increase in U.S. citizens interested in adopting Zambian children. Adoptions involve paperwork—both to complete the Zambian adoption and in order for a child to immigrate to the United States and acquire U.S. citizenship. If you or a U.S. citizen acquaintance are interested in adopting a Zambian child, please contact us at acslusaka@state.gov and review the Zambia adoptions information sheet at www.adoption.state.gov so that you are aware of latest requirements. There are several methods available to bring your adopted child to the United States legally, and options differ depending on your plans and residence status. We can point you in the right direction.

Changes to Immediate Relative Petition Filing

On August 15, 2011, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) introduced a worldwide change in the procedures for immigration petition filing for overseas petitioners seeking immigration for immediate family members such as spouses, parents, or children. Petitioners residing overseas are no longer able to routinely file Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, with U.S. embassies and consulates.

These changes mean that the U.S. Embassy is no longer able to accept Form I-130 from petitioners resident in the consular district. Petitioners residing in Zambia must now file their I-130 petitions by mail with the USCIS Chicago lockbox. The U.S. Embassy is only able to accept I-130 petitions in extreme emergency situations. Petitions that have already been accepted but where the beneficiary has not applied for an immigrant visa are not affected by this change. The U.S. Embassy will continue to accept clearly-approvable I-600 petitions for adopted children in cases where the adoptive parents already have an approved I-600A petition.

You can file Form I-130 with the USCIS Chicago Lockbox at one of the addresses below.

USCIS Chicago Lockbox addresses for regular mail deliveries:

USCIS
P.O. Box 804625
Chicago, IL 60680-4107

USCIS Chicago Lockbox address for express mail and courier deliveries:

USCIS
Attn: I-130
131 South Dearborn-3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60603-5517

For additional information on how to file a Form I-130 with the USCIS Chicago lockbox, please see the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov or contact USCIS by phone at +1-800-375-5283.



Welcome New Vice-Consul Rob Romanowski

In August, U.S. Embassy Lusaka welcomed our new Vice-Consul, Rob Romanowski, who replaced Stuart Denyer. Rob arrived from Phnom Penh, Cambodia following a two-year assignment as a consular officer there.

In Cambodia, Rob provided routine and emergency assistance to U.S. citizens and adjudicated both immigrant and non-immigrant visas. He brings with him experience directly relevant to his assignment here in Lusaka.

Rob is in Zambia with his wife, Alicia, and his two young boys, Tristan and Kilian. This is the family's first posting in Africa.

Rob is originally from the Boston area. Before joining the Foreign Service, he served six years as an Army officer. Rob enjoys bike riding and being outdoors. He is looking forward to meeting and serving many of the U.S. citizens resident here in Zambia. In his short time here, Rob has already met with U.S. citizens in the Copper-

Belt and in Western Province.

Apart from his primary duties of serving U.S. citizens and adjudicating visa applications, Rob is the Voting Assistance Officer and Refugee Officer.

See below for Rob's voting tips. You will be hearing more from him on that topic as the 2012 elections season progresses.



VOTING NEWS

The first presidential primary elections take place in January 2012. Plan to submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) as early as possible in 2012 so your local election officials have time to send you an absentee ballot, and you have time to vote and return it. Please remember that for many states, the FPCA expires annually, so you need to submit a new card every year in order to continue to receive voting material. Depending on your state, you may be able to send in your FPCA by email, fax or by mail.

The consular section at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka is pleased to help you with your voter registration. We can provide you with the Federal Post Card Application, the current addresses for your state election board, and we can research any special voting rules that may apply to your state. We can also mail in your voting card through the U.S. postal service so it is received in a timely manner. You can find further information at the following web site: <http://www.fvap.gov/>.





DIVERSITY VISA 2013 SEASON

The Diversity Visa (DV) “Green Card” Lottery 2013 season runs from October 4 until November 5, 2011. If you know a Zambian interested in applying for the Diversity Visa Lottery, share these important tips with him/her:

- The only official sources for Diversity Visa Lottery information are www.dvlottery.state.gov and www.travel.state.gov.
- Minimum requirement for selection is either a high school education or its equivalent, defined as successful completion of a 12-year course of elementary and secondary education; OR two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform.
- Applications are only accepted online at www.dvlottery.state.gov. Enter only once to avoid disqualification.
- Print out your confirmation sheet as you will need it to check if you have won by visiting the Entry Status Check section of www.dvlottery.state.gov in May/June 2012.
- Emails stating you have won the DV Lottery and asking for payment are fraudulent and should be reported to www.econsumer.gov.
- No fee is payable to enter the lottery or at any stage of the process, except at the U.S. Embassy, if you are selected for an immigrant visa interview.
- Read the instructions carefully before entering. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

CONSUL’S CORNER - AROUND ZAMBIA

One of our greatest pleasures is getting out in the field to meet with U.S. citizens living and working in Zambia. This past quarter, we visited U.S. citizens in North Western Province, Copperbelt Province and Western Province. Ambassador Storella was honored to talk with U.S. citizens at two of those locations.

In North Western Province, we had the special fortune of accompanying Chief Mumena on a tour of the Mumena Christian Center. We saw first hand the unique bonds many Americans here in Zambia form with their local communities and thank hosts Brian and Sondra Davis (volunteer wardens) and the several U.S. citizen families contributing to the community at the Center. - *Kate McGeary*



Ambassador Storella learned from Rick Love about a rope pump while Consul Kate McGeary talked with Chief Mumena



U.S. Citizens met at Mumena with Ambassador Storella, Chief Mumena and Consul Kate McGeary